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Message Text

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63
ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-04 COME-00 L-03 CG-00

DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-10 EPA-01

H-02 INT-05 EB-07 OES-03 EUR-12 AF-06 /072 W
---------- 090321
R 081355Z JUL 75
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS ICCAT XN MO
SUBJ: CONSERVATION REGULATIONS FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

REF: STATE 135603

1. BLUEFIN TUNA (THUNNUS THYNNUS)--CALLED "THON ROUGE" LOCALLY--
ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT 17 PERCENT OF MOROCCO'S TOTAL TUNA CATCH IN
1973.

2. BLUEFIN FISHERY IS CENTERED IN TWO REGIONS: BETWEEN KENITRA
AND TANGIER IN NORTH AND BETWEEN AGADIR AND SAFI IN THE SOUTH.
BLUEFIN FISHERY IN NORTH IS CONDUCTED MAINLY BETWEEN MAY AND
JULY WHEN LARGE (OVER 100 KG) BLUEFIN MIGRATE ALONG NORTHERN
COAST TO ENTER MEDITERRANEAN. FISHING IS CONDUCTED BY MADRAGUE
FISHERY. FAO REPORTS MOROCCO'S 1971 BLUEFIN CATCH IN MEDITERRANEAN
AS 100 METRIC TONS; UNDER 100 MT REPORTED CAUGHT IN 1972. NO
FIGURES FOR 1973.

3. SARDINE FLEET IN SOUTH ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL
CATCH OF BLUEFIN; VESSELS FISH (AFTER SARDINE SEASON) BETWEEN
JULY AND OCTOBER WHEN BLUEFIN IN I, II, AND III AGE CLASSES ARE
FOUND ALONG COAST. SOME HANDLINE FISHING DONE. REPORTEDLY,
BLUEFIN WEIGHING 6 TO 7 KG ARE CAUGHT ALONG WITH LARGER-SIZED
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BLUEFIN AT THAT TIME. FAO REPORTS MOROCCOS' ATLANTIC OCEAN

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BLUEFIN CATCH AS: 100 MT IN 1971, 700 MT IN 72, AND 500 MT IN 1973.

4. RFA DISCUSSED BLUEFIN ISSUE WITH HALLMAN, OES/OFA/FA DURING ATTACHED MEETINGS. IT WAS AGREED ABSOLUTELY NO CONTACT WITH MOROCCAN FISHERY OFFICIALS WOULD BE MADE IN LIEU OF MOROCCAN ACTION AT ICCAT. RFA MADE LOW-KEY APPROACH TO VISITING US BUSINESSMAN INTERESTED IN FISHERIES WHO VISITED SOUTHERN MOROCCO. INDIVIDUAL REPORTED BLUEFIN OF NO COMMERCIAL INTEREST TO HIM AFTER DISCUSSING TUNA FISHERIES WITH LOCAL SAFI BUSINESSMEN. INDIVIDUAL INDICATED MOROCCAN BUSINESSMEN ALSO NOT INTERESTED IN FISHERY, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH SEAS TUNA FISHERIES DOES AROUSE INTEREST.
BRUBECK

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